

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of claims 1-7, 18, 20, 21 and 23-32. By way of this amendment claims 16, 17, 19 and 33-37 are canceled as being directed to non-elected species.

A replacement drawing sheet 1 of 1 containing Figures 1-3 is provided herewith in order to extend the line associated with numeral 20 in Figure 1 to reach the actual tube and membrane shown in Figure 1. In the outstanding Office Action, Figure 2 was objected to as having numeral 32 pointing to an object not described in the specification. In order to address this objection, the specification has been amended consistent with Figure 2 to note that 32 refers to a wall of the reactor 30. Support for this amendment to the specification is found in claim 1 as filed and as such, it is submitted that no new matter has been added by way of the replacement sheet of drawings.

Claims 8-15 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement for a monolith that has a reaction catalyst coating and a membrane with a space between. Claims 15 and 22 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In particular, claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as reciting "the heating means" which lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, on the basis of dependence from claim 21 instead of claim 20. In response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 15 and 22 have been amended to provide antecedent basis and correct the dependency, respectively. As such, it is now believed that the rejections of claims 15 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is solicited.

Applicant submits that claim 8 and those that depend therefrom find enablement in the specification as filed at page 6, lines 8-17. The Examiner's attention is directed to Figure 1 and the corresponding application text found on page 5, line 16 – page 6, line 2. The tube 20 includes a membrane to allow preferential passage of a gas therethrough and rests within the interior volume of the reactor. The interior of the reactor wall 18 is coated with reaction catalyst 28. The volume intermediate between the interior side 18 of the reactor wall and the tube 20 is recognized within the application at page 6, lines 8-17 to be best filled with a flow distributor in order to disrupt laminar flow within the reactor and thereby improve purified gas transport through the membrane tube 20. The multichannel monolith of claim 8 therefore represents a subset of flow distributors per claim 6. More conventional flow distributors are provided as a Markush group making up the subject matter of claim 7. Upon reading of the instant specification, it is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would recognize that a channeled monolith could be designed and shaped to insert around the tubes 20 as shown in Figure 1 and within the interior volume of the reactor so as to create turbulent flow distribution within the reactor.

As such, Applicant submits that claim 8 and those that depend therefrom are enabled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection as to claims 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is solicited.

Summary

Claims 1-15, 18 and 20-32 are now pending in the application. The allowability of claims 1-7, 18, 20, 21 and 23-32 is noted with appreciation. With entry of the above amendments and remarks, it is now believed that all of the claims pending in the application are

Serial No. 09/901,398
Reply to Office Action of October 13, 2004

in allowable form and directed to patentable subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is requested. Should the Examiner find to the contrary, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney in charge of this application to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



Avery N. Goldstein
Registration No. 39,204
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,
Anderson & Citkowski, P.C.
280 N. Old Woodward, Suite 400
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 647-6000

Date: January 11, 2005

ANG/gs

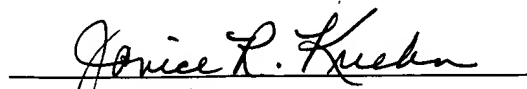
GS-W:\Word Processing\ang\REB12402-amd.doc

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER EV602286885US

DATE OF DEPOSIT January 12, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Janice R. Kuehn